

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/917,682

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Figs. 14 and 15 have been designated with the label "Prior Art"

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

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**REMARKS**

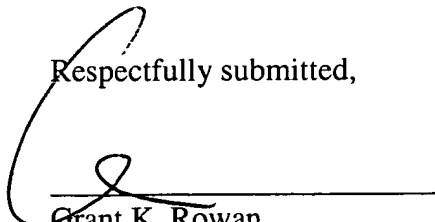
Claims 1-16 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 1 and 9 overcome the rejection. Furthermore, Applicants submit that the amendments do not change the scope of the claims.

In addition, Applicants have added new claims 17-26 to provide more varied protection for the present invention. Since claim 17 recites features that are similar to the allowable subject matter mentioned on page 3 of the Office Action, Applicants submit that the claim is patentable. Also, since claims 18-26 directly or indirectly depend upon claim 17, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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